

**HAMPTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
March 21, 2005 7:00 PM**

PRESENT: James Workman, Chairman, Cliff Pratt, Vice Chairman
Rick Griffin, Ben Moore, Virginia Bridle-Russell
James Barrington, Town Manager
Karen Anderson, Administrative Assistant

PUBLIC HEARING: The Board of Selectmen held a public hearing to take comments from the public on the acceptance of \$21,688.00 in grant funds through the Justice Assistance Grant.

Captain Tim Crotts explained that this is a combination grant that replaces the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant that the town used to receive. This has been awarded to the County and is being divided between the seven communities that are eligible for the grant.

Mr. Pratt MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen accept the Justice Assistance Grant in the amount of \$21,688.00.

Mrs. Bridle –Russell SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

I. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Mr. Kevin Schultz led the audience in the flag salute.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Beach Precinct Meeting

The Hampton Beach Village District will be holding their annual meeting on Friday, March 25th at 7:00 PM at the Beach Fire Station.

Agenda Appointments

Mr. Workman stated that no appointments were scheduled for this week's Board meeting and he has asked that there be no appointments made until the default budget is settled.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Town Manager's Report

Mr. Barrington explained to the Board that the annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection is on the agenda under "New Business" due to the fact that there are generally police details associated with that event and the Board of Selectmen should discuss that prior to an approval.

Utility Expenses

Mr. Barrington reported that he has sent letters to both Aquarion and Unitil this past week asking them to consider waiving the fire hydrant fee of approximately \$300,000 and streetlight fees of approximately \$150,000. Mr. Bingaman from Aquarion called and said that he would pass that request up to his superiors and he would be getting back to the Town later in the week.

District Court

Mr. Moore asked about the memo regarding the District Court from Attorney Gearreald. Mr. Barrington said that it is his recommendation that the Board of Selectmen sit down with the Exeter Selectmen to discuss the courts future. Mr. Workman suggested they be invited to attend the April 11th meeting in Hampton and offer an alternative date as well.

Hurd Farm

Mr. Moore asked if the Hurd Farm closing is going forward as planned and if the Conservation Commission was going to pay the RCCD fee. Mr. Barrington said that the closing was on schedule and the explained the revised documents for the BAN's that the Board is being asked to sign.

Glass Replacement

Mrs. Bridle-Russell asked if the replacement of the glass in the town office is completed. Mr. Barrington said that he believes the work is done. He explained that this was a 2004 project and was contracted prior to the end of the year from 2004 funds and was scheduled for installation last week. Mr. Barrington said that two or three years ago a gentlemen walked through a pane of glass on the first floor and we discovered at that time that the glass was plate glass, not safety glass. Funds were proposed in 2003 to convert the glass to safety glass and the funds were cut, in 2004 the funds were approved. Because 2004 was a default budget, the work was put on hold until the end of the year to make sure that funds would be available. In December the bid process was begun to contract that work.

Encumbrances

Mrs. Bridle-Russell asked if a new loader was purchased in December. Mr. Barrington said that a loader was purchased with 2004 funds. She asked if there were other purchases with encumbered funds. Mr. Barrington added that Finance Software budgeted for 2005 was needed to be purchased with 2004 funds due to the fact that the current software was not going to be supported in the near future. Mrs. Bridle-Russell asked what the cost of that was. Mrs. Duhamel said that it was approximately \$65,000. Mrs. Bridle-Russell asked if there were any other large expenditures. Mr. Barrington said that a vehicle was purchased for the Fire Department. The Board of Selectmen requested a list of the encumbrances from 2004.

Recreation Advisory Commission

Mr. Griffin told the Board an alternate was not appointed for the Recreation Advisory Commission and he will not be available for the next meeting. Mr. Workman said that traditionally there has not been an alternate for that commission. Mr. Pratt volunteered to be the alternate and will attend the next meeting.

Exeter Road Railroad Bridge

Mr. Workman requested that the Town Manager ask JoAnne Fryer to delay her meeting with the Board in regard to the Exeter Road railroad bridge for another week.

IV. NEW BUSINESS1. Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day

Mr. Barrington said that District 53 B has held the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day behind the former town office for several years and police details are usually needed to direct all the traffic. If the Board wishes to give consent to the Hazardous Waste Day, District 53-B should be notified that they will need to get their traffic details from another agency. Mr. Pratt said that he would like to have a Hampton officer assigned to handle the traffic. Mr. Barrington said that likely that would result in overtime. Mr. Pratt said that he would like to see the waste collection held and see a Hampton officer handling the traffic. Mr. Moore asked how many hours are involved. Chief Wrenn said that it is about 3 hours and the rate would be determined by who was doing the work. Mr. Pratt asked what other agencies will be doing details in Hampton. Chief Wrenn said that Seabrook, Hampton Falls and the County have said that they would be available for details. Mrs. Bridle asked why an on-duty person could not do the traffic detail. Chief Wrenn said that he could not guarantee the officer would be there, if there was an accident or other need, the officer would have to respond from the traffic post to the scene. Mrs. Bridle asked if a non-union person could volunteer to do that. Mr. Barrington said that there could be a problem with the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Mr. Moore MOTIONED that Hampton provide a police officer out of the normal budget for the HHWD so that the work is kept within the Hampton Police Department.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

2. Colony Motel and Dolphyn Motel – Litigation Authority

Attorney Gearreald told the Board that there are two situations that deal with the widening of Ashworth Avenue with structures that are at a pinch point that he needs to bring to the Board's attention. He noted

that the Board of Selectmen has tried, where structures are on or over the right-of-way to work around them as best as possible, but these two structures are in the way. The owners were notified and were asked to move the structures off of the town property within six months. The owner of the Colony Motel has taken out a building permit to do the work, but has not moved forward with the removal of the encroachment and the owner of the Dolphyn Motel has not applied for a demolition permit as yet. The work is proceeding on Ashworth Avenue and time is now of the essence. Attorney Gearreald told the Board that delays resulting from their failure to act are likely to cause financial damages to the Town, filing a suit to recover these costs may be sufficient incentive to spur prompt action. The owner of the Dolphyn has gone to the Building Department with some questions and he was expected to meet with the Building Inspector today, although that did not happen.

The work needs to be completed by April 15 and the owners were given until March 15 to commence the work. Attorney Gearreald asked the Board's permission to seek a court order to have the owners remove the property off the right of way and to allow the town do the work and charge them back the expense. Mr. Griffin asked which of these properties encroached on the town right-of-way first. Attorney Gearreald said he did not know, but that the agreement with the Colony Motel that acknowledged the encroachment was dated in 1975, although the motel was built in 1930.

Mr. Pratt MOTIONED that Attorney Gearreald be authorized to move forward with litigation against the Colony Motel and the Dolphyn Motel to remove the encroachments on Ashworth Avenue.

Mr. Griffin SECONDED

VOTE: 4 FOR

1 OPPOSED

(Bridle-Russell)

3. Signing of Revised BAN Documents

Mr. Moore MOTIONED that the Board sign the revised Bond Anticipation Note documents with the corrected amount and adjusted terms

Mr. Griffin SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Default Budget

Mr. Barrington told the Board that the departments have all worked extremely cooperatively toward the goal of a balanced default budget. The proposals that are now on the table exceed the \$2.8-million needed which gives the Board the option of considering adding back some of the proposed cuts. Mr. Barrington highlighted some of the reductions that are included in the total projected savings.

- Eight firefighter positions and the part-time secretary in Fire Inspection are eliminated.
- The Receptionist position (two part-time people) are eliminated. With this reduction and elimination of several phone lines, we would install an automated voice attendant to direct phone traffic from the main number.
- The Parks Coordinator position is eliminated.
- Postage is reduced with the elimination of mailing automobile registration reminder notices.
- Staff time is reduced in the Town Clerk's office with the office being closed at 12:30 PM on Friday afternoons.
- Secretaries for the Budget Committee, Conservation Commission, and Highway Safety Committee have been eliminated. There will be support for the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment.
- Health Agency funding has been eliminated.
- Training costs have been drastically reduced throughout the entire organization.
- We have reduced the Mosquito Control budget to \$60,000, the amount of the larviciding, and eliminated adult spraying and greenhead trap placement.
- Planned roof maintenance and new carpet for the Selectmen's meeting room have been eliminated.

The fire hydrant rental and street light potential savings have not been calculated at this time. Streetlights are under the town's control if the town wanted to turn off the lights. Mr. Barrington did note however, that Unitol has recently faxed over a rate increase sheet that will be taking effective soon. In the packet the Board of Selectmen received there are also some alternatives that could return the funding for the school resource officer positions and restore some of the shifts for the summer police coverage. In addition there is a memo from the Fire Department that explains the operational changes that would take place with the elimination of eight firefighters.

Mr. Barrington said that with the budget cuts that have now been offered, there is now more money on the table than we need to meet the default number. Mr. Barrington said that he recommends that we retain about \$200,000 in a contingency that can be available for emergencies, whether that is for storms, fires, police coverage, collapsed streets, or whatever.

Mr. Workman said that in the spirit of sharing the burden, he proposes that the Board of Selectmen reduce their stipend by 15%.

Mr. Pratt MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen reduce the stipend of the Board of Selectmen by \$500.00; which is 30% from the proposed stipend.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Mr. Moore said that is a \$4,500 decrease to that line item.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell said that the Budget Committee needs a secretary to take minutes of the meetings and depending on a volunteer to do that twice a week is not feasible. Mrs. Bridle-Russell asked that the \$1,650 be retained in that account. Mr. Moore said that he is aware that the Budget Committee and the Conservation Commission members are volunteers and in the spirit of fairness those budgets should only be cut 15%. Mr. Workman said that with 15 Budget Committee members, everyone should be able to take a turn doing the minutes.

Mr. Moore MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen cut the Budget Committee's three accounts by a total of \$400.00.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED

VOTE: 3 FOR

1 OPPOSED (Workman)

1 ABSTAIN (Pratt)

Mr. Moore MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen adjust the budget line items with a net reduction in the amount of \$3,375,851 as detailed in the March 18, 2005 spreadsheet entitled Budget Adjustment Recommendations – 2005 Default Budget as prepared for the Board of Selectmen.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

It was understood that all amendments are cumulative.

Mr. Barrington told the Board that when he told Ellen Goethel about the elimination of the secretary for the Conservation Commission she was very disturbed. Mr. Moore said that he would be happy to take the same approach with Conservation Commission and reduce their total budget by just 15%. Mr. Workman said that everything is going to be important to somebody. Mr. Pratt said that the people have spoken to cut the budget. Mr. Moore said that they are not being told they can't have a secretary, but \$1,000 has been removed and if they feel the secretary is important, they could move funds around within their budget to fund that position.

Mrs. Bridle-Russell proposed that the money be put in to allow the School Resource Officer program to continue at the Hampton Academy Junior High and at Winnacunnet High School until the end of this school year. She said she has a petition with over 400 signatures of students and staff of the high school. Mrs. Bridle-Russell said that the Board of Selectmen had an agreement with the School Board to do that and it should be honored.

Mrs. Bridle MOTIONED that \$60,960 be added to the Police budget to return the SRO's to the schools until June. The costs for the officers will be reimbursed by the school.

Mr. Griffin SECONDED

Chief Wrenn explained that the \$61,000 is the amount of money needed for back-filling patrol shifts, not the amount of the SRO officers themselves. Mr. Moore asked if this included the benefit costs. Chief Wrenn said that it did not. Mrs. Duhamel asked if the shifts would be filled by full-time officers. Chief Wrenn said that they would. Mrs. Duhamel said that with benefits the adjustment needed is \$68,276.00.

Mr. Moore MOTIONED to amend the amount to \$68,276.00.

Mrs. Bridle SECONDED

Mr. Pratt said that of all the calls he received on the default budget, he got the most on this subject. He said he has a hard time funding the positions because of the way this was first introduced to the Board. This program was through a grant and then would be paid for by the schools, however it ended up that the Board of Selectmen had to threaten to take them out of the school unless the schools paid for them. Mr. Workman said that the schools had agreed to pay the costs, but the town never asked them to do it. Mr. Pratt said that he has a problem with the SRO in WHS because it is a cooperative school that is shared by four towns and Hampton should not bear that cost.

Mr. Workman said that this is the subject that he heard the most about as well. He understands that there may have been an agreement with the School District but the changed circumstances would have changed that. This is not about having the officers in the school and the money to do that, but having the feet on the street to service 16,000 people instead of 1,600 students in school. Mr. Workman said that he feels the town would be better served with the officers on the street rather than in the school hallways. Mr. Moore said that if the Board of Selectmen makes the chief whole on this, it is eating into the surplus and there may not be the opportunity to add to another department if the Board wants to. Mr. Griffin said that this is only through June, and the Board of Selectmen should honor the agreement that was made. Mr. Pratt said that there was an agreement, but things have changed. Mr. Pratt said that the Board also made an agreement for seven years to back a bicycle path, but changed their mind this year. Mrs. Bridle said that the SRO's are preventative and she feels that these officers need to be retained and the School Board is willing to fund the positions through June. Chief Wrenn acknowledged that the Board has a tough job; the SRO program is very important and he hated to make the cut originally but had no alternative due to the financial cuts. There is a fair amount of work handled by both officers in the schools that does not fall onto the officers on the street. The relationships that are built up with the students cannot have a value put on it. He said it was hard for him to make the cut and encouraged the Board of Selectmen to consider the restoration of the program through the end of the school year and then in August it must be revisited to determine if it is financially feasible for September through December, 2005.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT: 4 FOR

1 OPPOSED(Workman)

MAIN MOTION VOTE: : 4 FOR

1 OPPOSED(Workman)

Mr. Pratt asked about the proposed reduction of the staff time in the Town Clerk's Office, and if the union people have to be paid for 40 hours. Mr. Barrington said that they do not and he understands that the union members are willing to take the reduction in hours/pay. Mr. Pratt asked if the public works union was willing to adjust the transfer station days in conjunction with the overtime issue. Mr. Barrington said that they were not. Mr. Pratt asked which of the weekend days at the Transfer Station was the better day to close. Mr. Barrington said that it did not matter to him, and when the hours are established people will become accustomed to them. The union suggested that we consider being open every other weekend and close the following weekend. Mr. Moore suggested that the hours could fluctuate by the season. Mr. Pratt said that he would like to see the hours remain consistent. Mr. Pratt said that if Saturday is the busiest day

it should remain open on Saturday and be closed on Sundays. Mr. Moore suggested that some busy times it should be open all weekend.

Mr. Workman asked if another afternoon could be chosen for closing the Town Clerk's office, making it in the middle of the week. He said that most people take a Monday or Friday off to register their vehicles. Mrs. Andreozzi said that she did consider another day, but when the employees are giving up three hours of their pay, they look forward to having the time on Friday afternoon to get on with their weekend. She felt that this adjustment will inconvenience residents less than if they had to wait in line longer all week. Mr. Pratt asked how much savings this is. Mrs. Andreozzi said that the total cut from her budget is about \$8,500, which includes cutting back on some supplies and computer training. Cutting the personnel down further would bring them back to the 1988 staffing levels. She noted that there are a lot of additional regulations that have come into play since 1988 and to serve everybody this is the best way to handle it. Mrs. Bridle asked if there would be any savings by shutting the entire town hall down on Friday's. Mr. Barrington said that he has not explored those numbers but would be willing to do that.

Mrs. Bridle asked who is going to be taking the bulk of the work that the receptionists do. Mr. Barrington said that he sees, what he has resisted, an automated attendant for the main phone line with options to connect callers to specific departments. The mail duties would be shared by Mrs. Anderson and the Finance Department. Mr. Barrington acknowledged that eliminating those positions will create a shortage just like all of the other adjustments being proposed. Mr. Moore asked if there is are capital costs involved to make the phones automated. Mr. Barrington said that he is reducing the number of phone lines to accommodate that cost.

Police Department

Mr. Moore said that he thinks there is enough room in the overall excess to talk about the summer shifts for the police department. The Board had reviewed the options prepared by Chief Wrenn and Mr. Moore pointed out that in order to reach "Alternate C" an additional \$28,000 would be needed.

Mr. Moore MOTIONED that \$28,000 plus benefits (\$31,160) be added to police budget to provide 157 shifts for special police officers in accordance with "Alternate C".

Mr. Workman SECONDED

Chief Wrenn said that proposal "C" gives them a little more breathing room. He said this will still provide the coverage on busy nights. Mr. Workman pointed out that this will result in about 71% of the 2004 staffing. Mr. Griffin said that it sounds good to him.

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Mr. Moore noted that the Police budget was reduced to accommodate the special details that had already occurred and he did not see them in the accounting. Chief Wrenn said that the amount had been added to the 15% reduction he made and that amount is with the cuts that were made. Mr. Pratt said that someone asked him about the SERT team and the costs associated with it. Chief Wrenn said that there is a cost of about \$30,000 annually in training wages. Chief Wrenn said that he considers that a vital part of the agency because they don't have a tactical team within the department and rely on the regionalization.

Mr. Workman said that there is a police unit that has been removed that he has seen in action, the mounted patrol is a cost of about \$20,000. Mr. Barrington said that the mounted patrol is a total cost of about \$45,000. Chief Wrenn said that the \$20,000 is the care and feeding of the horses, there are additional costs associated with wages, training wages, uniforms and equipment. About \$7,000 for boarding and feed have been left in at this time. Mr. Workman asked how much was needed to restore that unit as an active unit. Mrs. Bridle-Russell asked what the Friends of the Mounted Patrol do? Chief Wrenn said that they raise money to buy new horses and then give the horses to the town and they have purchased much of the saddles and tack. One half of the new trailer was paid for by the "Friends". Chief Wrenn and Captain Sullivan will determine the cost of restoring that program and the Board will return to this later in the meeting.

Fire Department

Deputy Silver and Deputy Benotti were present to answer questions for the Board. Deputy Silver noted that they have conducted an amended review of the cuts from their budget and they would like to present some information that may help the Board of Selectmen in their deliberations. The numbers represent a cut of \$912,000 which is about 18% of the total Fire Department budget. He explained that 33% of the cuts were from non-personnel areas and anything further would make it difficult to maintain operations. Deputy Silver said that they think they can offer some additional information to possibly save the eliminated positions, which includes the Fire Prevention secretary. If the Fire Department was asked to cut \$149,000 less than they have, they could probably save 4 firefighter positions and if they could cut \$249,000 less they should be able to save all the positions. Deputy Silver said that he looked at the number of calls, and in 2004 there were 310 simultaneous calls. A reduction in personnel would result in an ability to respond to those calls. He explained the potential decrease in revenue as a result of calls they could not respond to was \$101,000.

Deputy Benotti said that they have cut everything in the operating budgets to the bone, which resulted in a cut of \$467,000 and the remainder has come from personnel. If they can find \$295,000, they can keep all eight firefighters. He explained that presently when they operate, if there is a call for smoke in the building they strike a box, everyone responds and we back fill right away, which gives us reinforcements right away. That has been adjusted and should result in some savings. Deputy Silver said that they have left some money in that overtime account based on a percentage of fires. He explained that every time the ambulance responds from Station 2 they presently call back people on overtime to cover the ladder truck, that would no longer be done and the ladder would not be covered. If they cut the people down, we will not be able to send a piece of equipment out on mutual aid and at the same time adequately provide coverage to Hampton. He said that this is a borderline catastrophic failure of the system. This will make us rely heavily on those on duty since they will not ask our neighboring communities to provide the gap in the service we would have provided. Keeping our levels of manning at 9, not cutting the 8 personnel will allow us the ability to keep two engines and ambulances on the road.

Mr. Moore asked how many times the department transported by ambulance last year. Deputy Silver said 1,126 times. Mr. Moore asked if the staffing per shift was set at 7+1 and the shift was actually staffed at 8+1, would that be in keeping with the contract's intent. He explained that it would allow one person to be out sick or on vacation without the need to fill an overtime shift. Mr. Barrington said that the union representatives have indicated that they do not believe that is within the contract. Mr. Barrington suggested that Board have a non-public meeting to discuss that. Mr. Moore said that none of the cuts made relate to Marine 1. Deputy Benotti said that some cuts were made on the training and fuel for the boat.

Mr. Pratt asked how many pieces of apparatus the town mans. Deputy Benotti said that the standard coverage is two engines and two ambulances. Mr. Pratt asked if 8 firefighters are layed off if they would man one ambulance and two engines. Mrs. Bridle said that 80% of the salary for the Deputy Chief of Safety comes out of the SRF; she asked if any of the paramedic salaries could come out of that account. Deputy Silver said that they don't currently take a percentage of those wages from the SRF but he understands that it is something that could be considered. Mrs. Duhamel said that she has come up with a cost ratio on how to do that and it appears it could be 80/20% for the paramedics.

Mr. Moore MOTIONED that the Board limit the reduction in firefighters to four and at the same time remove the position of Deputy Chief of Operations from the organization and institute the change before April 18, 2005.

Mr. Griffin SECONDED

Mr. Griffin said that he went to the fire station last week and met with them and there is no doubt that they do a wonderful job, but he does think that cuts have to be made and it is tough. Mr. Moore said that this motion would add \$149,000 less the balance of the year after April 15th. Deputy Benotti said that due to the contract, the Board can cut the position, but the savings would just be \$15,000.00. Deputy Silver said that this should be discussed in a non-public session.

9:00 PM

Mrs. Bridle-Russell MOTIONED that the Board of Selectmen go into a non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (a) for personnel.

Mr. Moore SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

9:23 PM

The Board returned to public session and Mr. Workman explained that the members of Local 3017 decided not to come into the room at this time so the Board met in a non-meeting.

**VOTE: 3 FOR
2 OPPOSED
(Workman, Bridle)**

Mr. Moore MOTIONED that the final payment on the rescue boat be made as soon as possible and offer the boat for sale

Mr. Griffin SECONDED

Mr. Barrington said that if this vote passes, he would recommend that the department get out of the marine rescue business. He explained that the decision to purchase the current boat was made after a harrowing rescue experience and concern for the safety of the town's personnel. Mr. Barrington said that water rescues are part of the Coast Guard mission and due to other Homeland Security issues they are not able to respond as quickly as in the past. Mrs. Bridle-Russell asked how many rescues have been made with that boat this year. Deputy Benotti said that it went on 17 missions and the people that were pulled from the water were very grateful. Mrs. Bridle-Russell asked what the benefits of selling the boat would be. Mr. Barrington said that the purchase price was \$145,000. He noted that there is a grant approval for a multi-jurisdictional boat dock in the harbor which is in the engineering phase that would need to be considered. Mr. Moore asked if the town would maintain the dock 100% upon its completion. Mr. Barrington said it was anticipated that it would be the town's responsibility to maintain the dock. Mr. Moore said that it would be wise for another of the agencies to take over the project. He is concerned with the ongoing expenses with the program and maintenance costs. If we are looking at restrictions on the ground based responses, we should eliminate the marine responses. Deputy Benotti said that the boat was taken out of a near miss of our personnel using the smaller boat and all of the personnel have now gone through at least 30-40 hours in water rescue training and a lot of money has been invested in gear and equipment. Deputy Benotti said that it is not that the town has a boat, we have a professional program and the department is as good in the water as anyone else. Mr. Moore said that it appears that there are some training costs that would be saved as well. Deputy Benotti said that the all training has been completed and the costs to maintain and operate the boat for the year is less than \$3,000.

**VOTE: 4 FOR
1 OPPOSED(Workman)**

Mounted Patrol

Chief Wrenn said that they have calculated the costs to restore the mounted unit with a reduction in the number of hours for the groom at \$2,340 plus \$20,000 for feed and board, \$5,000 for training wages \$600 benefits, for at total of \$27,940.

Mr. Pratt MOTIONED to restore the mounted patrol and add \$27,940 to the police budget.

MR. Workman SECONDED

Mr. Pratt said that for crowd control and things that go on at the beach there is nothing more forceful than police on horse and he thinks it is needed.

**VOTE: 3 FOR
2 OPPOSED
(Bridle-Russell, Griffin)**

Public Works

Mr. Moore noted that the only change was the deletion of Spring Clean-up. Mr. Hangen said that they understand that there are other things that are more important. Mr. Workman asked if there is any specific costs associated with the leaf pick-up and Christmas tree collection. Mr. Hangen said that those services are accomplished with a reallocation man power and there are no additional costs.

Mr. Pratt said that he had a lot of conversations with people that know a lot about sewer treatment. He asked Mr. Hangen how badly the sewer treatment plant needs repair; Mr. Hangen said that Hampton was one of the first leaders in clean water going into harbors and the ocean and in 1912 had one of the first sewers and in 1937 had one of the first sewer treatment plants. Improvements have been going on since then. The department processes on a daily basis approx 2.7 to 3 million gallons of wastewater every day and during the summer the average goes up to 3.5 million gallons every day. When there are storms or high tides there is a lot of infiltration into the system. Mr. Pratt said that he is worried from what he has observed and if that ever lets go we will be in a mess. Mr. Hangen said that they are updating the 201 Facilities plan and evaluating the inside of the plant and entire geography as it pertains to sewers and pump stations. Mr. Hangen said that the headworks needs replacement, but he thinks it can hang on another year. The lab also needs to be expanded.

Mr. Moore said that the Transfer Station, it is currently open 12 hours on the weekend. Mr. Hangen said that they he believes they are paid for an 8 hour day on both days. Mr. Hangen said that could be sliced in half and open 4 hours a day on both Saturday and Sunday, although the employees probably would not prefer that and he may have trouble filling those shifts. Mrs. Bridle asked if part-time people can be hired for the weekend hours. Mr. Hangen said that they could not. Mr. Pratt said that it would be more productive to close for an entire day rather than a portion of one day. Mr. Moore said that it makes sense to close on Sundays. Mr. Hangen asked if they could start closing on Sunday's after June 15th which will give residents time to clear their yards.

Mr. Workman said that another of his pet peeves is the short sightedness of putting off infrastructure projects and he is an opponent of that.

Mr. Workman MOTIONED that we restore \$40,000 for highway resurfacing and \$110,000 for drainage construction which is a restoring a total of \$150,000 for public works infrastructure.

Mrs. Bridle SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Mr. Hangen thanked the board for that consideration because it would have been the second year they had zeroed the infrastructure. Mr. Hangen said that the Town Manager had wanted to be able to pave the Ashworth Avenue and High Street parking lots. Mr. Workman said that he would not be in favor of using that to pave a parking lot, this is for the paving streets. Mr. Moore noted that street lighting is in the public works budget and it might be helpful to know how many streetlights the town has and the costs associated. Mr. Hangen said that there are people clamoring for more lights than less but it is valuable to look at.

Health and Human Services

Mr. Moore said that the public should understand that the all of the donation accounts in health and human service agencies have been eliminated in the budget for this year. Mrs. Bridle noted that she anticipates that the reductions to Sea Care, Meals on Wheels and Crossroads will place an additional impact on the welfare budget.

Parks Coordinator

Mrs. Bridle said that the other position that she has had a lot of calls on is the Parks Coordinator, with the recommendation to either eliminate the position or make it a seasonal position from April to November. Mr. Moore said that the town looks good these days and he spends a lot of time in the Tuck Field area and he does see that the Parks Coordinator is a working supervisor and looks at a bit of the equipment issues. Mr. Moore said that he would support retaining the position, but that is difficult given other positions that have been eliminated. Mrs. Martin said that it would be very difficult to fill that position seasonally.

Mr. Patch stated that the work he does in the parks is a preventative and also fills in when some one is out. He explained that he does the planning, designing and writing of bids for recreation needs, is on call for any park emergency, handles all the training of part-time staff, orders all park supplies, and stripes the fields. Mr. Patch noted that he is the only town employee that holds a pesticide license. He handles the maintenance and display of all holiday decorations and is responsible for 15 acres of turf weekly, 75% of which is athletics fields. During the winter he takes care of the snow removal around town buildings as needed and has assisted public works with snow removal. He also prunes and maintains the equipment and trucks in the winter. Mrs. Martin acknowledged that the department has made great strides since this position was added.

Mr. Moore pointed out that the Parks and Recreation department has been reduced 34% from its proposed budget.

Mr. Moore MOTIONED to restore the Parks Coordinator to the Recreation budget.

Mr. Griffin SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Library

Mr. Pratt asked what the saving would be to close the library a couple days per week. Mrs. Redden said it depended on which days were chosen. Mrs. Redden said that the Library offers age appropriate programs for all residents and served 138,000 people last year. They are recording circulation transactions of about 915 per day. There are also many people that utilize the Lane Room or other meeting rooms. Mr. Pratt said that he is just trying to look for savings.

Mrs. Bridle said that the biggest complaint she hears is in regard to the youth causing problems at the library. The plan had been to hire a youth librarian for that troubled time period and that position has been eliminated. Mr. Workman said that he would like to see the library open seven days per week and this is not a place to cut.

The Board requested final numbers for default budget for next week. Mrs. Bridle-Russell said that if there are openings in departments and people apply for the positions which would result in salary increases, is that possible. Mr. Barrington said that it would be, in many cases the positions would have been being filled at TSOR anyway.

Mr. Pratt MOTIONED that all positions that need to be filled be brought forward to the Board of Selectmen for information prior to the position being filled.

Mrs. Bridle SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Mrs. Bridle clarified that the default budget has now eliminated four firefighters one deputy chief, a part-time secretary for fire prevention, two receptionists and has reduced the town clerk's hours on Fridays.

Mrs. Ann Kaiser, Chairman of the Mosquito Control and said that her budget is combined with Animal Control and she learned tonight that the aduclticing and green head traps have been eliminated. She said that if this holds there will be no spraying anywhere in the town of Hampton. The larviciding and catch basin treatments will be done. The 2005 budget proposed was less than the 2004 budget. She said that people are going to be very unhappy with the elimination of the spraying. Mrs. Kaiser asked if the Board would be agreeable to cutting the spraying budget in half. Mr. Reniere said that as a member of the committee, cutting \$33,000 from the aduclticing is 33% of their budget and is more than what is being expected from other departments. Mr. Moore asked what level of reduction would be more acceptable. Mrs. Kaiser said that they could cut back on the aduclticing somewhat and hope that the larviciding takes care of the majority of the problem. There is a question about the effectiveness of the sprays people use in their own yard. The yard sprays are not going to help at Tuck Field or at the beach. The \$500 for setting out the 250 greenhead traps is a bargain. Mr. Reniere said that it is a labor item and it can be reduced by reducing the number of hours of spraying. Last year \$22,300 was spent on aduclticing and with the price

of gas increase, they will go over that amount this year. Mrs. Kaiser said that if they only have \$15,000 to work with it is better than 0. Mr. Griffin said that he thinks that Mrs. Kaiser and her people do a wonderful job and people noticed how effective she has been.

Mrs. Bridle said that in order to be fair to the employees being laid off, when is the separation date. Mr. Barrington said that for each of the positions, the incumbents have been notified that possible layoff was being discussed and that no decisions would be final until the Board made it final. Mr. Barrington proposed that they would get a couple weeks notice. Mrs. Bridle said that the reductions should be accomplished no later than April 18th.

V. MINUTES

The minutes of March 14, 2004 were corrected as follows: Page 8, first paragraph – Correct sentence to read “Reducing manpower and services or closing a fire station are not violations of the CBA, but they are bad for the community and put people at risk.”

Mr. Moore MOTIONED that the minutes be accepted as corrected.

**Mr. Griffin SECONDED
FOR**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Nursing Home Applications
2. Taxi Permit
3. Coin Operated Amusement Permits
4. Acceptance of Tax Deed – Map 039 Lot 001

Mr. Moore MOTIONED that item #1 be removed.

Mr. Griffin SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Mr. Moore MOTIONED that the balance of the consent agenda be approved.

Mr. Griffin SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Mr. Moore asked what the Board of Selectmen was certifying in regard to the nursing home applications. Mrs. Anderson explained that the Board of Selectmen certifies Hampton residency for the applicants.

Mr. Moore MOTIONED to approve the nursing home applications.

Mrs. Bridle SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Mary-Louise Woolsey said that after two attempts to be put on for an appointment to no avail, she decided to take advantage of this public comment period. As a private citizen, she said that as the Board is starting the year towards the 2006 budget she would have appreciated more diplomacy last week in regard to the Budget Committee's secretarial position. She understood from the Board of Selectmen's meeting that no decisions had been made and then on the following evening to learn that the Town Manager asked Mr. Rice to tell his wife that she was no longer employed as secretary. She asked that future conduct be more thoughtful. Mrs. Woolsey said she feels there is a severe disconnect between the public and the elected officials. The Board assumed that the budget would pass. She has wondered over the past couple of months what has happened because it seems they are living in two different towns. The public did vote for the bonds and at that time they trusted the public officials, but she said that it will be quite a while before either the Board of Selectmen or Budget Committee regains the public trust. She said that there is no excuse for not tightening belts and people are upset and are more active than she has ever seen at any other time. The perception is that the Board of Selectmen is doing a few things at the meeting and leaving at 7:30 PM. Mrs. Woolsey said that she feels it is unfair to have voters go into the voting booth without a crystal clear understanding of the question.

She asked that when there is a request for bonds or notes, that a asterisk be placed under the article that would say "Please note that at the specific interest rate the interest associated with this bond would be \$X." She said that if the public had seen a statement of that type on the past bonds they would not have supported them. Blind articles, such as articles 30 and 31 were not petitioned and did not go before the budget committee and there were no funds attached to those articles so the public did not know what the cost was going to be or where the necessary funds would be taken from. One of the needs that have changed is that the State law has changed and there was a precedent set last year with the private detail funds. Mrs. Woolsey said that if the Board persists with these accounts they are risking operational funds and that is very dangerous. She stated that there is no way of predicting what voters will do and she encouraged the Board not to ask for something unless they had to. Under cost savings, she said that the transfer station is one of the most visible and heavily used services of the town and the public perception is going to be that you are sticking it to the public to close on a weekend day. It is time to evaluate solid waste collection for businesses at the beach. Mrs. Woolsey spoke about the statute that the town is supposed to go from January to the town meeting with no extra expenses at all. She suggested that the Board of Selectmen get together with the Planning Board and see what the options are in regard to Growth Control in order to curb development and check with NHMA and see what they can offer for advice and see if a moratorium is legally possible. Debt service is 1/7th of the budget this year and one of the big factors she sees is because of the way the police station bond was done.

Mrs. Woolsey noted that in regard to the upcoming collective bargaining negotiations, a strong message sent from the public to the Board of Selectmen. A couple years ago the Board of Selectmen said that the Town Manager had saved money because he had negotiated the contracts and now the town is paying the price. She said that the Board of Selectmen should never allow a manager to negotiate a contract with the people that he will later supervise and hire or fire. She urged the Board of Selectmen to hire a professional negotiator and have the Town Manager and department heads available as backup only. Her other suggestion is going back to the Sanborn Ruling on Collective Bargaining and submit the cost items on the contracts separately to the public every single year to give the public the right to approve the funding each year.

Mrs. Woolsey said that she did appreciate the discussion on the boat, over and above the maintenance of the dock, there are expenses associated with the gear, training and equipment for the boat and her opinion the town has no business conducting open ocean rescues. It is a huge liability to the public and she said that the Board of Selectmen is doing the right thing by selling it. She suggested that an inventory of the rolling stock be conducted and that the recreation bus be sold. The SRF is generating funds that belong in the pocket of the taxpayers. She said she expects to be hearing from the Board of Selectmen regarding the invitation to attend the Budget Committee meeting in April.

Mr. Richard Reniere, 29 Highland Avenue said that the three major departments were present last week and he was disheartened on what was being cut. His concerns are with public safety, the police and fire departments. He said that he was concerned with the reduction of summer help and what would happen when the word got around that there was less police coverage at the beach during the summer. Mr. Reniere said he was relieved that some adjustments have been made to the original proposal. He is opposed to the decision on the marine boat. Mr. Reniere was concerned that the Board is going against the wishes of Town Meeting in 2002 that voted to buy the boat. The people at the beach, the residents and visitors, deserve the same protection as the rest of the residents and selling the boat is an irrational, bad decision that jeopardizes public safety.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Bridle-Russell MOTIONED that the meeting be adjourned. (11:00 PM)

Mr. Griffin SECONDED

VOTE: UNANIMOUS FOR

Chairman

